ERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In: Initional Application No

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C 7 G06F11/22 G06F G06F3/12 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 GO6F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. EP 1 189 135 A (CANON KK) 1 - 3620 March 2002 (2002-03-20) paragraph '0001! paragraphs '0006! - '0011! paragraph '0014! paragraphs '0046! - '0048! paragraph '0073! figures 1-3,5 EP 1 202 160 A (MINOLTA QMS INC) 1-36 2 May 2002 (2002-05-02) paragraphs '0006! - '0020! figures 1,2 US 5 412 779 A (MOTOYAMA TETSURO) 1-16 2 May 1995 (1995-05-02) column 2, line 43 - column 4, line 39 figures 2,4,5 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 25 May 2004 02/06/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Hanrahan, A

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